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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 120909Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5339
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CLOSES SESSION

REF: SEOUL 5190

SUMMARY: PLENARY SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED FOR THIRD TIME ON AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 9 AND INTERPELLATION CONTINUED LATE INTO EVENING. THIS SESSION WAS COMPARATIVELY MUTED WITH GENERAL LACK OF FIREWORKS, AND THIS ATMOSPHERE PERMEATED NON-PLENARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS WHICH FOLLOWED ON AUGUST 10. ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED AUGUST 12 AFTER EXTENDING TWO DAYS (INCLUDING SUNDAY HOLIDAY) PAST ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY.

1. IMPASSE CAUSED IN AUGUST 9 SESSION WHEN SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON REFUSED TO ALLOW NDP VICE PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM TO SPEAK ENDED WHEN SPEAKER HELD TO DECISION, AND KIM ANNOUNCED HE WOULD BOYCOTT REMAINING SESSIONS. KIM DID SPEAK BRIEFLY TO PRESS LATER SAME EVENING,
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DEPLORING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW HIM

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TO TAKE FLOOR, PARTICULARLY AFTER HE HAD BEEN PROMISED
TIME BY SPEAKER AND IMPLYING HIGHER LEVEL GOVERNMENT
INTERFERENCE. KIM TOLD PRESS THAT HE HAD INTENDED
TO RECOUNT ON ASSDVBLY FLOOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM
DAY OF HIS ABORTIVE PRESS CONFERENCE AND IMPLIED THAT
SOME PHYSICAL PRESSURE HAD BEEN USED AGAINST HIM AT
CIA HEADQUARTERS.

2. IN LATE EVENING PLENARY SESSION ON AUGUST 9, THREE NDP
MEMBERS QUESTIONED CABINET FURTHER ON GENERAL
POLICIES BUT EMERGENCY MEASURES WERE NOT DISCUSSED IN
DETAIL. NDP WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE KIM YUN-DOK DID
POSE RHETORICAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING TRIALS OF YUN PO-SON
AND OTHER PROMINENT FIGURES. "SINCE WE HAVE BEEN
ASSURED BY GOVERNMENT THESE MEN ARE NOT COMMUNISTS, ARE
THEY ON TRIAL BECAUSE THEY WERE POLITICALLY AMBITIOUS
OR BECAUSE THEY RESISTED PRESENT GOVERNMENT OR BECAUSE
THEY SPOKE OUT AGAINST RAMPANT CORRUPTION?" GOVERNMENT
ANSWERED WITH ROUTINE DEFENSE OF POLICY.

3. SATURDAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS PROCEEDED QUIETLY.
JUDICIARY-LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED IN SEMI-
OPEN SESSION THE RECOMMENDATION THAT PRESIDENTIAL
EMERGENCY MEASURES NO. 1 AND 2 BE LIFTED. MEMBERS
THEN VOTED AS EXPECTED AGAINST INTRODUCTION OF NDP
REPEAL BILL TO FLOOR IN 7 TO 5 VOTE ALONG PARTY LINES.
THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AT ALL OF POSSIBLE LIFTING
OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 4.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RETURNED BILL WHICH RECOMMENDED
LIFTING OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 3 TO SPEAKER WITHOUT
TAKING ACTION. THEIR STATED GROUNDS WERE THAT BILL WAS
PRIMARILY LEGAL QUESTION AND MORE PROPERLY CONCERN
OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

5. PLENARY SESSION CLOSED WITH BRIEF, FORMAL SESSION
ON MORNING OF AUGUST 12.

6. COMMENT: SPECIAL SESSION ENABLED BOTH
GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION TO RESPOND TO GROWING DEMANDS
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FROM CONSTITUENTS THAT THEY DO SOMETHING TO EARN THEIR
PAY. ESSENTIALLY HOWEVER, IT DID LITTLE MORE THAN MEET
THE FORMS AS AVERSE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF TRUE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. SESSION DID NOTHING TO IMPROVE
ASSEMBLY'S IMAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD AS A FECKLESS
INSTITUTION.
HABIB

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